

# Executive Overview and Recommendations

The Recreation and Community Facilities Committee was given the following charge.

This committee will evaluate how our recreation facilities currently operate and how to appropriately provide programs for our various generational demographics. Topics will include sharing services with other cities, providing more services and addressing the expectations of the community. Other issues to be explored include current and future opportunities involving the usage and functionality of the town facilities.

The Recreation and Community Facilities Committee is pleased to make the following recommendations. These recommendations are unanimously supported by the committee members.

First, the Town of Addison should budget for the development of a Master Trail Plan. The master plan should include pedestrian and bike trails. It should include trails within Addison and linkages to planned and/or existing trails in the surrounding communities.

Second, the Town of Addison should budget a study to determine the benefits and costs of consolidating the Town's administrative offices. The scope of the study should include the traditional costs of site acquisition and construction. Additionally, it should include the potential savings from energy efficiency, personnel savings, time and travel, and other infrastructure.

Third, the Town of Addison should expand programming for the recreation department. For our scope, we believe this programming should be limited to Town residents. Additionally, we recommend that a resident committee be set up to act as a sounding board for programming ideas.

Fourth, the Town of Addison should leverage facilities that exist in the Town, but are not owned and operated by the Town. Two specific venues were reviewed – Loos Athletic Complex and the Office in the Park tennis courts. The committee recommends that the Town of Addison reach out to the management of these facilities to see if additional recreational opportunities can be provided by them.

Fifth, the Town of Addison should enhance the Addison Athletic Club. The Town should budget for the addition of rehab room, kids' zone, and "Curves" style work out circuit. Additionally, the Town needs to budget expense dollars for relatively inexpensive equipment that is not in the capital budget

Finally, the Town of Addison should budget the for several specific park improvements. These include the replacement of some dated facilities in the parks today, as well as the addition of new venues with in the parks.

## Our Process

The Recreation and Facilities Committee approached our charge as follows.

WE GOT EDUCATED FIRST. Our first step was to make sure we didn't jump to any conclusions before we were thoroughly educated. The committee has members that have been active with the Town as well as several who have this as their first volunteer experience. The key educational components were 1) Tour de Addison (a motor tour of all the Addison parks and most facilities), 2) review of the surveys the Town has completed, 3) review of the demographic trends in the Town, 4) review of the trends and directions in the nation and region relating to recreation, and 5) reviewed the 2030 Vision.

WE DETERMINED A REASONABLE SCOPE. Our committee determined that our scope should be 1) limited to activities done by residents, 2) generally limited to items that can be implemented or controlled by the Town, and 3) limited within our charge. We did see overlap between some other committees but we determined it was best to move forward as if our committee owned the issue. This is not to say our ideas might be better than another committees but we needed to "just do it" so we could complete our task.

BRAINSTORMING AND PRIORITIZATION OF IDEAS. Since we spent a lot of time on the areas above, the brainstorming and prioritization of ideas was relatively simple. The results of the brainstorming and prioritization of ideas make up the rest of this paper.

## Master Trail Plan

The Town of Addison should embrace the goal of making the Town the "most walkable" community in the Metroplex. The first step in doing this is the budgeting for and the implementation of a master trail plan.

The benefits of an implemented trail system are 1) providing residents recreation opportunities, 2) providing our hotels, apartments, and office building base with another value add to sell, and 3) increase the value of home owners property.

Tactically, the impending redevelopment in the Brookhaven Club area provides tremendous potential that must be immediately capitalized on. We need to tie in to Brookhaven College as they have a beautiful walking trail circling the campus and a baseball field, tennis courts, golf, driving range, and putting greens. Many DART riders are college students and they could walk or ride to the campus. Brookhaven also offers many educational classes appealing to all ages and interests and we need to make access as convenient as possible. Addison must have a connection to Brookhaven College; be it a street, walking path or bridge as the opportunities are so great.

The residential areas near Winnwood Road could be tied to the White Rock trail. And the existing trail by the Finance Building should be reworked to get the trail further off Beltline.

Our existing linear trails can be expanded to include such things as putting greens, FRISBEE golf, PARS course or Bocce ball.

We need to make it easier for Addison residents to access Loos from our walking trails as it would avail us to the Loos track and athletic fields as well as the Natatorium.

The Addison Circle area is thriving and we need to consider their needs and desires in our planning for the trails.

Also our many visitors in our hotels would enjoy the opportunity to use our trails. We can include a trail map in with the restaurant map that the city now provides to hotel guests.

Our year round climate is amenable to outdoor activities for all ages and interests and we will want to maximize our facilities for the enjoyment of everyone!

## Expand Programming

It is our recommendation that recreation programming be expanded for seniors, kids, and “upscale services.”

The benefits of this include 1) more recreational opportunities for the residents and 2) potential miscellaneous revenue from “upscale services.”

This particular topic crosses committee lines. We wanted to include it in our presentation, since we considered it “recreation for the mind”.

We would like the council to consider allocating budget dollars in expanding on and creating new Adult Education opportunities.

Why should the council consider this? To paraphrase the old sales “Location! Location! Location!” adage ---Demographics! Demographics! Demographics!

Seniors are the fastest growing demographic in our society and the wealthiest. But these are not your Father’s seniors. They are active both in body and mind. And they look for areas that serve both of these needs. Whole cities, states even, have staked their whole futures on being able to attract this segment of our society.

Based on the 2000 census, we believe there are more kids in Addison than thought. The Town staff has noted that “camps” for kids are always sold out.

Town staff noted that there has been interest in “upscale services.” The Town currently provides personal trainers and this should be expanded to include massage, chiropractic, and spa.

We should look to Brookhaven College. With the anticipated new development in the southern portion of the city and talk of connecting roadways with the college, perhaps this would be a great opportunity to develop a mutually beneficial relationship.

Finally, we recommend that the Town add a citizens committee to act as a sounding board for the Recreation department.

## Enhance Addison Athletic Club

The Addison Athletic Club is a wonderful facility. The recent expansion added a lot of capacity for current programming and activities. While our committee has several recommendations, we do not wish to lose any of the programs that allow the AAC. Reducing the current budget of the facility to add an enhancement is not the intent of this committee.

### Create rehab zone

Our concept of this area is a facility that will allow for unsupervised use of rehabilitation equipment. Ideally, residents who have undergone professional physical therapy will be able to continue their rehabilitation at the AAC. Broken bones, ligament tears, tendonitis and other problems that require specific equipment could be rehabilitated in this area.

This concept also allows for potential revenue generation. The rehab zone could be made available to professional therapists who could conduct sessions with residents.

### Build indoor playground “Adventure Zone”

This recommendation conceives a climate controlled, unsupervised play area for children. The idea of simply adding shade structures to existing playgrounds was also discussed, but we believe that an indoor facility would be better.

As air quality in north Texas continues to be an issue, heat is not the only factor that causes parents to eschew playgrounds in the summertime. Also, this would be a year round facility.

No additional personnel would be required, as parents would be responsible for their children. And maintenance would be handled the same as all of Addison’s outdoor play areas.

A call box should be installed in case of emergency

The playground itself would be sturdy, and easy to clean. Good examples of such areas can be found at several local shopping malls.

An observation/vending area could be made available for parents

### Add Curves style circuit

A popular commercial work out system designed specifically for women could easily be adapted to enhance the AAC

### Expand indoor pool to 25 meters and at least 6 lanes

Currently at 25 yards, and four lanes, the pool is popular enough that there is often a line of swimmers, waiting for lanes.

The standard for lap pools is commonly measured in meters. Lengthening our pool would make it consistent with this standard.

The expansion to six lanes would allow for more residents to utilize this wonderful resource

### Increase use of outdoor pool

The addition of shade structures, both in the pool and surrounding area would allow residents with sun sensitivities to enjoy the outdoor pool.

Construction of a “spray park” that is accessible separately from the outdoor pool would allow residents to cool off when the pool is not open. This includes prior to Memorial Day when the pool opens, and after Labor Day, when it closes. The weather in Addison often permits swimming in early May and mid to late September, and residents could enjoy this area at those time. Also, this area could be used in the morning before air quality makes outdoor activity difficult for sensitive groups.

The spray ground could be located in the section of the outdoor pool farthest from the main AAC building. This area is currently landscaped, and seriously underutilized. This location would also allow for entry from the Linear Trail that runs behind the AAC.

A spray ground would be unstaffed by the town, and parents would be responsible for their children.

A call box should be made available in case of emergency

### The outdoor pool should be modified to support lap swimming

This would increase use of the outdoor pool, and alleviate some of the competition for lanes in the indoor pool.

Specific times could be set aside for lap swimming in the outdoor pool.

### Provide an expense budget for recreation equipment that is not a capital expense.

Expensive equipment is covered by the capital budget. However, there needs to be an annual budget for recreation equipment that falls under the capital budget level. This budget should be incremental. It should not take away from the existing capital budget.

## Leverage Community Facilities

Addison is blessed with facilities that are owned and operated by other public and private entities. Addison should reach out to these groups to leverage these facilities also. The largest facility is the Loos Sport Complex. This complex consists of a natatorium, outdoor football stadium and track facility, and an indoor arena. There is also ample parking and an area that has been used for baseball in the past.

As a first step, it is our recommendation that the Town reach out to DISD to see if Addison can use these facilities. If the first step is successful, budget money should be allocated to fund a consultant/planner to complete a vision of Addison’s use of the Loos facilities. For example, can Addison use the area that was used for baseball for Town of Addison leagues? Can the arena be used for public events that exceed the capacities of the Addison Conference Centre? Can the parking lot be used for parking and the start/finish line of 5K/10K walks and runs?

There are two other ideas of note. First, the committee heard from several Town residents that feel the current tennis court capacity is not great enough. To address this, the committee thought that capacity could be expanded if there was an agreement with the Dallas Tennis Association to use their tennis courts in the Office in the Park complex (off Midway Road by Dovie’s

restaurant. Second, the Soccer USA facility off Addison Road should be approached to see if their facilities could be used (much like the Loos facilities).

The final recommendation in this area deals with Town owned facilities. As you know, the Town has several administrative facilities. These facilities are spread out. Also, Town Hall, while a beautiful building, is not efficient from an administrative perspective. For example, there are just a few employees in large number of square feet of space. This space to employee ratio has to be several magnitudes greater than most executive space planning requirements.

The committee's unanimous recommendation is that budget money be allocated to do a study of the cost of locating all administrative offices in one facility. The benefits also need to be studied. These should include the staff, energy, increased safety/security, and sale or alternative use of existing facilities and space.

## Improve the Addison Park System

With more than twelve parks serving just over 14,000 residents, Addison boasts an extensive, varied and innovative park system. Features range from jogging trails to peaceful settings, aircraft viewing to wildlife. After reviewing Addison's demographic data, the Recreation and Community Facilities Committee explored park facilities offered by other outstanding communities that strive to offer their citizens the best. Per our discussions with the town staff, the most used parks in Addison are those "active" parks which offer playgrounds, walking/jogging paths or other recreations facilities.

The Committee recommends that Addison allocate budget dollars to implement the following recommendations:

- Build an innovative "natural" playground to serve the children on the east side of Addison,

The demographics of Addison show a growing number of small children in the single family homes in the neighborhoods of Bellbrook, Celestial and Winnwood. Though there is currently a wonderful trail and parks on that side of town, there is no playground facility to match what is currently available to the residents in the Addison Athletic Club (AAC) adjacent neighborhoods. There are currently between 50-60 resident children under the age of fifteen years who could walk to a playground built in either Celestial or Winnwood Park. Most of these children attend different private schools. A playground would strengthen the neighborhood by bringing these children and their parents together to play in the afternoons and on weekends. In keeping with the 2030 vision emphasizing that "design matters", depending on which park is selected, the Committee's vision for this park includes blending the playground with the Celestial curves, rocks and mounds or with the Winnwood woods and lake – a town "tree house".

- Replace the equipment in the "sand park" on the west side of Addison.

Easily accessible by walking or bikes, the “sand park” in the middle of the Les Lacs neighborhood is a magnet for residents. The wood equipment in the park is aging and needs to be replaced.

- Develop additional recreational facilities in the linear trails of Les Lacs.

In addition to the Committee’s vision for a Trail Master Plan, the park system’s recreational opportunities will be enhanced by developing infrastructure such as putting greens, PARS course, bocce ball, etc... within the green spaces between the jogging trails. These improvements will attract a wider variety of users and meet requests by residents voiced in the AAC surveys.

- Build a fenced skate park by Addison Circle.

Skate boarders already use the fountain park and open space within Addison Circle. The use of the current park is both dangerous for the boarders and a liability risk to the town. A skate park built on Town park land would provide a safe place for an activity that is already taking place. Requirements for the use of the park would be include wearing appropriate safety equipment. Revenue could be generated to support the upkeep of the park through lessons or special events for boarders. A call box should be installed in case of emergency.

- Implement an educational kiosk and viewing platform at the Arapaho Park south of Addison Airport.

Driving around the airport, one can observe many parking lots with people watching the planes come and go. The strategic nature of Addison Airport has been identified in the 2030 vision and the economic advantage it offers to Addison is unparalleled. It has been stated that the “Airport should have a strong connection rather than a feeling of separation from the community”. The development of the Arapaho Park south of the Airport begins to provide that connection. It is an ideal location to observe. Implementing a kiosk with information about the types of planes at the airport, uses, opportunities, etc..., along with an aircraft viewing platform with binocular/telescope equipment would enhance the community’s connection with the Airport.

- Build additional tennis facilities or provide access through a joint usage program with Office in the Park, Brookhaven College or Greenhill.

Currently Addison offers a single tennis court to its residents. Requests for additional facilities for regular recreational use, leagues, lessons or camps have been made. Depending on priorities, it may be that Addison does not have the land use available to build additional courts. If so, within or adjacent to the town are numerous courts that could be available to the residents if appropriate agreements were in place. Some of these courts have professionals available for lessons or clinics and leagues already in place.